Licences issued to Cooperative Sugar Mills in Gujarat

3169. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cxooperative sugar mills which are likely to be given licences in Gujarat State during the current plan period;

(b) the number of licences issued so far;

(c) the number of applications lying pending with Government;

(d) the time likely to be taken by Government to clear the pending applications; and

(e) what is the policy with regard to inviting private sector in Sugar industry?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The number of new licences to be issued for setting up of new sugar factories in Gujarat during the current plan period would depend upon various factors, like capacity available for licensing, availability of sugarcane, potential for development of sugarcane, financial viability of the projects, etc.

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan (upto 31-1-95), 2 letters of intent have been issued for establishment of new sugar factories in cooperative sector in the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) As on 31-1-1995, no application was pending consideration in the Ministry of Food.

(e) As per the licensing policy guidelines announced by the Government of India *vide* Press Note No. 16 (1991 Series) dated 8-11-91, while considering the applications for grant of letters of intent/licences for establishment of new sugar factories, other things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to proposals from the cooperative sector and the public sector, in that order, as compared to the private sector.

Ban on production of gur or khandsari

3170. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a ban on production of gur or khandsari; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Letters written by MPs to the Ministry

3171. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) During the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995, 352 letters were received in the Ministry of Food from the Members of Parliament, of which 331 letters were acknowledged.

(c) Out of 352 letters receied, final replies in respect of 272 letters were sent. The remaining 80 letters are in the various stages of processing.

(d) Based on the factual information in the Ministry and also that furnished by Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry, the Members of Parliament are apprised of the position with regard to issues/matters raised in their communications.